

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 11/28/2016 8:53:57 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, November 28, 2016

Morning Clips – Monday, November 28, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Fox News: Evolution or flip-flopping? Why Trump is drawing flak over emerging positions
<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/11/28/evolution-or-flip-flopping-why-trump-is-drawing-flak-over-emerging-positions.html>

Howard Kurtz

The coverage might look something like this: President-elect Trump has shown himself to be surprisingly inclusive in reaching out to former rivals who bitterly criticized him, including Mitt Romney, who called him a “fraud,” Nikki Haley, who questioned his disavowal of the KKK, and Rick Perry, who dubbed him a “cancer on conservatism.” President-elect Trump has called a temporary truce in his rhetorical war on the media, even venturing to the much-derided New York Times and describing the newspaper as a “jewel.” President-elect Trump has shown striking flexibility in rethinking some of campaign promises, abandoning his support for waterboarding, declaring an open mind on climate change and walking away from overheated threats to have Hillary Clinton prosecuted. He also agreed to keep two key parts of ObamaCare. Even before taking the oath, he appears to be growing into the job. Now of course such positive assessments would have to be balanced with more critical ones. One man’s post-election evolution is another man’s blatant flip-flop. A Politico headline: “15 Trump Flip-Flops in 15 Days.”

NOTE: President-elect Trump has shown himself to be surprisingly inclusive in reaching out to former rivals who bitterly criticized him, including Mitt Romney, who called him a “fraud,” Nikki Haley, who questioned his disavowal of the KKK, and Rick Perry, who dubbed him a “cancer on conservatism.”

NOTE: And it’s equally amazing that Nikki Haley, who was so critical of Trump during the campaign, was tapped as U.N. ambassador.

Wall Street Journal: Tug of War Delays Some of Donald Trump’s Key Hires

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/tug-of-war-delays-some-of-donald-trumps-key-hires-1480291957>

Damian Paletta

President-elect Donald Trump, coming off a steady two-week flow of personnel announcements for his nascent administration, is confronting a series of more vexing decisions about how to shape the remainder of his cabinet. Chief among them is whether to name as secretary of state Mitt Romney, who emerged as Mr. Trump’s early favorite for the post despite his criticism of the GOP nominee during the Republican presidential primaries. The campaign against the party’s 2012 presidential nominee escalated Sunday when Kellyanne Conway, a top Trump adviser, said on CNN that a “breathtaking” number of people would feel “betrayed” if Mr. Romney got the prominent cabinet post after he had opposed Mr. Trump so publicly. A spokeswoman for Mr. Romney, who has met and spoken privately with Mr. Trump about the State Department job at least twice, didn’t respond to a request for comment.

NOTE: A third group are early critics of Mr. Trump who made amends with the businessman just before or after his November victory. That batch includes South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who is the pick to be ambassador to the U.N.

Washington Post: The Fix’s week in politics

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/the-fixs-week-in-politics/2016/11/27/00ede39c-b4ea-11e6->

a677-b608fbb3aaf6_story.html

Amber Phillips

BEST THING THAT HAPPENED TO REPUBLICANS: Trump is installing campaign critics in his administration. A month ago, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) said Trump was “everything a governor didn’t want in a president.” Now she has agreed to be his pick for U.N. ambassador. Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee, was the face of the anti-Trump wing of the party, but now he is under consideration for secretary of state. Folding in critics is one of the clearest ways for Trump to signal that he has a broad coalition of support within the Republican Party. And that is the first step to help him transition from a campaign that threatened to cleave the Republican Party in two to a unified presidency.

The State: Ariail on Nikki Haley’s new job

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article117457873.html>

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: Disabilities board leader says extra fines could hurt care

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Qazn0q48

SC State Wire

If lawmakers force South Carolina's disabilities agency to punish providers more severely, they will be less likely to help disabled people, the chairman of the board that runs the agency said. The agency's executive director spent two hours being grilled by senators during a budget hearing last month, and that experience didn't sit well with South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs Commission Chairman Bill Danielson. He especially didn't like one suggestion from Sen. Thomas Alexander that providers need to face stiffer fines to stop repeated poor decisions and behaviors. Several stories in The Greenville News have pointed out a troubling record of deaths, abuse allegations and financial problems. Audits have found dozens of county disability boards failing to properly manage the money and property of disabled people in their care.

SC Delegation News:

The Hill: Black lawmaker troubled by Pelosi's caucus changes

<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/307606-black-lawmaker-troubled-by-pelosis-caucus-changes>

Mike Lillis

A member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) is sounding the alarm over the new changes floated by Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), warning that the minority leader's proposals could erode the power of African-American lawmakers even as they attempt to spread influence to younger members. In a note to fellow members of the CBC, Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.) praised Pelosi "for listening to the concerns" of Democrats seeking a new path forward after a disastrous election cycle that will put Republicans in charge of the White House and both chambers of Congress next year. But he's also worried that some of the proposals "may have severe unintended consequences that could diminish our power as a caucus" by preventing many longstanding CBC members from rising through the ranks. Richmond said he's particularly troubled that Pelosi's proposals "seem to target the portfolio" of the third-ranking leadership post, currently held by Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), a 12-term CBC member, by making that position an elected seat reserved for lawmakers who have served three terms or less.

NOTE: Several sources on and off of Capitol Hill said Clyburn is also unhappy with the proposed changes. His office did not respond to a request for comment.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Rain forecast gives South Carolina firefighters hope

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GrODyU3c

SC State Wire

A forecast for rain this week is giving hope to South Carolina firefighters battling a blaze in the northwestern corner of the state. The South Carolina Forestry Commission hopes to contain the Pinnacle Mountain fire by the middle of next week. The National Weather Service says there's a chance of rain through Wednesday. The fire started Nov. 9 in Table Rock State Park. It has burned nearly 15 square miles. It was 50 percent contained. There are no evacuations in effect and no injuries have been reported. More than 600 structures could be threatened in Greenville and Pickens counties. About 130 structures could be threatened in Transylvania County, North Carolina. Officials hope to reopen Table Rock State Park and its trails Monday. About 280 firefighters are working on the fire.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Post and Courier: Berkeley County inmate roadside cleanup crew logs record month after Hurricane Matthew

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/berkeley-county-inmate-roadside-cleanup-crew-logs-record-month-after/article_6979fe3a-a759-11e6-a0ea-f39cc9b6350b.html

Angie Jackson

Jail inmates who volunteer to pick up trash along Berkeley County's roadsides hit the streets in October with a lofty goal in mind after Hurricane Matthew. They raked in so much debris in the first few days after the storm that the Sheriff's Office challenged the work crew to pick up 100,000 pounds of tree limbs, bushes and garbage by the end of the month. The inmates got to work and brought in 117,000 pounds, a record for the crew that Sheriff Duane Lewis launched about a year ago. An average month totals about 10,000 pounds when inmates pick up paper trash. Collectively, the inmates logged 2,100 hours in October, scooping up everything from large logs to a mattress, said Randy Demory, director of Hill-Finklea Detention Center. "That looks like that's about twice what we've devoted to inmate work crews in the past, so we hit it real heavy in October," Demory said.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Judge mulls jury visiting crime scene in Slagger trial

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6HZE6MTI

Bruce Smith

A judge is considering whether jurors will visit the spot where a white former South Carolina police officer is accused of shooting and killing an unarmed black man in North Charleston. Testimony resumes Monday in Charleston in the murder trial of Michael Slagger. Fifty-year-old Walter Scott was shot five times while fleeing a traffic stop in April, 2015. The trial is expected to go to the jury by the end of the week. The defense has asked Circuit Judge Clifton Newman to allow the jury of 11 whites and one black to visit the scene. Prosecutor Scarlett Wilson says jurors have viewed laser scans and animations of the scene so there's no need go to the location.

Post and Courier: Michael Slagger murder trial resumes with more defense witnesses

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/michael-slagger-murder-trial-resumes-with-more-defense-witnesses/article_05443c1c-b525-11e6-91f0-6b1e86cc0947.html

Andrew Knapp and Brenda Rindge

More witnesses for Michael Slagger's defense are expected to testify Monday in the former North Charleston police officer's murder trial. Attorneys for Slagger have said they expect to offer witnesses for at least the next three days. Slagger, now 35, stopped Walter Scott, 50, on April 4, 2015, and later chased Scott on foot. He said that they got into a fight over his Taser and that Scott grabbed it and pointed it at him. Slagger said he opened fire in self-defense. But a bystander filmed the end of the encounter. The eyewitness footage showed Slagger drawing his pistol as Scott turned and started

running away. Experts have estimated that Scott was about 17 feet away when the first shot was fired. Five of the eight bullets hit Scott, killing him. Monday is the 14th day of testimony in the murder trial, which started Oct. 31. Closing arguments could come as soon as Wednesday with jury deliberations to follow. Slager faces between 30 years and life in prison if convicted of murder. The jury also is likely to have an option of voluntary manslaughter, which carries between two and 30 years behind bars.

Post and Courier: With deliberations in sight, Michael Slager trial could hinge on judge's instructions for jury

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/with-deliberations-in-sight-michael-slager-trial-could-hinge-on/article_f21cfb68-b314-11e6-aab3-631dcaa322a0.html

Andrew Knapp

For a month, jurors have heard testimony aimed at helping them decide whether former police officer Michael Slager committed a crime when he fatally shot Walter Scott. But with Slager's murder trial nearing a close this week, it's what they will hear from a judge that could be most crucial to deciding the outcome. A cellphone video showed how the North Charleston patrolman shot Scott in the back as the 50-year-old ran away. But the officer said that Scott had taken his Taser during a fight, which prompted his gunfire in self-defense. Over the past decades, the country's top judges have grappled with devising standards for police officers' use of deadly force. Many of their rulings revolved around whether an officer reasonably believed at the time that force was necessary to deal with a threat.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Jury selection to resume in Charleston church shooting trial

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NiPFHNkS

Meg Kinnard

Jury selection is again resuming Monday in the federal case of a white man on trial for fatally shooting nine black parishioners at a Charleston church last year. The selection process was halted Nov. 7 after lawyers for Dylann Roof questioned his ability to understand the case against him. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel's ruling last week cleared the way for Monday's process to begin anew. Roof, 22, is charged with counts including hate crimes and obstruction of religion in connection with the June 17, 2015, attack at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. He faces a possible death sentence if convicted. Beginning Monday, 516 potential jurors report to the courthouse to be individually questioned by the judge. When 70 qualified jurors are picked, attorneys can use strikes to dismiss those they don't want, until 12 jurors and six alternates are seated.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Improving returns is just part of SC Retirement System fix

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article116961878.html>

Opinion Extra: Michael Hitchcock

At the Retirement System Investment Commission, we believe that we exist for the sole purpose of helping to fulfill the sacred promise the state has made to our members — 500,000 teachers, firefighters, police officers, state and local employees, retirees and families. Our job is to invest and manage the assets of the state's five retirement systems, but we don't think of the trust fund we manage as simply a multi-billion dollar, globally diversified investment portfolio. We see it as the tangible benefits it provides to our members like food, medicine, clothing and even presents for grandchildren. Our organization has received a great deal of criticism for our investment performance over the past several years, and quite frankly deservedly so: We have underperformed our peers and the state's expected rate of investment return. So we have spent the greater part of this past fiscal year undertaking a deep and systemic review of ourselves and our performance.

Associated Press: Clemson's Swinney says his players deny using racial slur
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SSJql0Ow
SC State Wire

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said Sunday he spoke with his players about South Carolina linebacker Bryson Allen-Williams' contention a Tigers offensive lineman used a racial slur during warmups before Saturday night's 56-7 victory. Allen-Williams said afterward he couldn't identify the Clemson player. When Swinney heard Allen-Williams' comments, he asked his player and all told him it was false. "I believe my guys," Swinney said. "That's all there is to say about it." The two teams got involved in a brief scrum while on the field about 90 minutes before kickoff. South Carolina defensive end Dante Sawyer said on Twitter it was Clemson fans using racial slurs. Sawyer also said Tigers center Jay Guillermo reached out to him after the game to ease tensions and "received all my respect."

The State: SC business, civic leader Cathy Novinger dies <http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article117370523.html>

Clif Leblanc

Cathy Novinger, a woman who made a name in Columbia's business and civic life at a time when few women had much influence – particularly in corporate circles – died Sunday after a years-long battle with cancer. Her sister, Donna Blackburn Jumper, posted the news on Facebook. "My wonderful sister made her walk to meet Jesus this morning," Jumper wrote. "She was such an influence on so many who knew her." Novinger's age and circumstances surrounding her death were not immediately available. But the pastor of her church, Trinity Baptist in Cayce, said visitation is scheduled for Saturday with services on Sunday. But times for those events had not been determined Sunday.

Post and Courier: Study: Recovery from 2015 floods created 20,000 jobs in S.C.
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/study-recovery-from-floods-created-jobs-in-s-c/article_1a94103e-b0ec-11e6-800c-637233858a7c.html

Thad Moore

The recovery from last year's devastating floods may have helped South Carolina stave off a slowdown in job growth, according to a new study by University of South Carolina researchers. USC economists Doug Woodward and Joey Von Nessen estimate that the state added more than 20,000 jobs once insurance checks and federal aid arrived, as contractors and retailers saw a surge of business. In all, the influx of spending created a surplus worth some \$2.2 billion once that money circulated through the economy. Their research, presented last week at a conference focused on the October 2015 floods, suggests that the flurry of activity helped to maintain the rate of the state's job growth, which has hovered around 2.5 percent for most of the year - faster than the nation as a whole. They estimate that the recovery efforts contributed 0.2 percent to that total. The gains were concentrated in the construction and retail industries, the researchers said. Earlier this year, federal data show that construction jobs boomed across much of the state, leading the state's employment growth.

Post and Courier: Future of Obama's overtime rule suddenly in doubt, but employers move forward with plans

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/future-of-obama-s-overtime-rule-suddenly-in-doubt-but/article_913acbaa-b197-11e6-aadc-eb382f621ec5.html

Thad Moore

This time last month, President Obama's overtime rule was gliding toward becoming law. It was cast as a key win in the administration's last weeks that would extend wage protections to millions of Americans, including tens of thousands in South Carolina. Employers were preparing to tweak their workers' schedules, give them time-and-a-half pay or give them a raise to avoid the impending

change. And while it faced a looming legal challenge, the new provision had an advocate in Hillary Clinton, who seemed poised to take office. Now, days before it was set to take effect, no one's sure if the overtime rule will ever see the light of day. First, Donald Trump shocked the nation with an upset victory that cast doubts on many of Obama's executive actions, including the overtime measure, which he called for in 2014. The president-elect hasn't said much about his plans for the rule, but congressional Republicans appeared eager to roll it back, suggesting that the provision might take effect and later be repealed. Then the rule's short-term prospects slipped away, too. Last week, a federal judge in Texas blocked its enactment while a lawsuit challenging its legality plays out. That limited a scenario advocates had imagined - that even if the regulations were later loosened, many employers who made changes to follow the law would keep them the same.

Local News:

Associated Press: Police: Man fatally shoots brother following fight

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=WpgknGcA

SC State Wire

Police have arrested a North Charleston man who they say fatally shot his brother after a fight. The North Charleston Police Department tells local news organizations that 28-year-old Marquis Desaussure has been arrested on charges of murder and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. Police say the incident began Sunday morning after Desaussure and his brother got into a fight near an apartment complex. During the altercation, Desaussure pulled out a gun and shot his brother. Police responded to the scene and found 24-year-old Tre Desaussure with a gunshot wound. Deputy Coroner Kimberly Rhoton says he was pronounced dead at the scene. Authorities later located and arrested Marquis Desaussure in connection with the shooting. It's unclear if he has an attorney.

Associated Press: Authorities: Aiken County deputies shoot man with machete

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o93rwZGV

SC State Wire

Authorities say Aiken County deputies have shot a man with a machete who also said he had a gun before moving toward the officers. Aiken County Sheriff's spokesman Stephen Shunn said in a news release that the deputies were responding to a call about a man standing in a residential street in Clearwater with a gun around midnight Saturday. Shunn says the deputies ordered him to drop the knife, but instead he started moving toward the officers and they fired. Shunn says the man was shot twice and was taken to the hospital. His condition has not been released. The sheriff's office also did not release the names of the deputies or the man shot. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the shooting.

Associated Press: Bicyclist hit from behind and killed in Anderson County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xlwdU7VD

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 50-year-old man riding a bicycle has been hit and killed by a vehicle in Anderson County. Deputy Coroner Charlie Boseman told media outlets that Jeffrey Abbot was hit from behind as he rode his bicycle on state Highway 81 around 6:15 p.m. Saturday. Boseman says paramedics pronounced Abbot dead at the scene. Troopers are still investigating the crash. No charges have been filed.

The State: Richland group's mission, funding raise questions

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article117408013.html>

Ron Aiken

Since 2014, a nonprofit with one employee, no accomplishments related to its mission and no correct address provided to the IRS or S.C. Secretary of State has received \$166,000 in Richland County hospitality-tax funds and will receive another \$75,000 this fiscal year. The charity, Second Chance

Afterschool Learning Environment, Inc. (SCALE), describes itself on its IRS 990 forms and its website as an after-school tutoring/mentoring program for at-risk students with an additional mission to help the homeless. But according to records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, SCALE's only activity has been funding a community parade/reunion in the Horrell Hill area and acting as a fiduciary pass-through for a Caribbean restaurant's annual reggae concert. And the group's use of the funding has some County Council members questioning the county's use and monitoring of hospitality, or H-tax, awards. Besides the support over the years of the hospitality tax money – a tax collected on restaurant meals and spent on efforts to attract tourists to Richland County – SCALE, which has a charitable, tax-exempt 501(c)3 status, also has received...

Post and Courier: Demand for office, industrial space continues across Charleston

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/demand-for-office-industrial-space-continues-across-charleston/article_d41239d8-adb2-11e6-9d4c-c7eec17db58c.html

Warren L. Wise

The commercial real estate business remains strong across the Lowcountry. CBRE Research reports the vacancy rate during the third quarter of the year for industrial space fell to 6.3 percent while the rate for office space dropped to 9.7 percent. Vacancy rates below 10 percent are considered part of a healthy market - unless they fall too low and trigger a jump in rents or stifle leasing activity. More than 790,000 square feet of industrial space were absorbed during the July-September period while the average asking rents topped \$5 per square foot. More than 4 million square feet of industrial space is under construction across the Charleston region. Just over one-eighth of that is speculative space, meaning a tenant is not lined up but developers expect there's enough pent-up demand to fill it. The hottest area for development is the Interstate 26 submarket as new industrial space moves past Summerville ahead of the \$500 million Volvo car plant's opening in 2018.

Independent Mail: Milliken plans upgrades at Anderson County plants

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/23/milliken-plans-upgrades-anderson-county-plants/94277212/>

Nikie Mayo

Milliken & Company plans to invest at least \$2.5 million to upgrade equipment at three plants in Anderson County. Headquartered in Spartanburg, the textile and chemical research company employs nearly 600 people in Anderson County, according to county economic development officials. The company plans upgrades at its Cushman knitting plant in Williamston, its Gerrish-Milliken weaving plant in Pendleton and its finishing plant, also in Pendleton. The upgrades will include refurbishing existing machines and buying new equipment to increase productivity at the plants, according to documents from the Anderson County Economic Development Department. Courtney Edwards, a corporate spokeswoman for Milliken, said Wednesday that the company is performing the upgrades as part of its ordinary course of business and that "no big changes" are expected at the Anderson County plants. She said she could not discuss the specifics of the upgrades, because the details are "proprietary information."

Post and Courier: Lowcountry will mark World AIDS Day on Dec. 1

http://www.postandcourier.com/features/your_health/lowcountry-will-mark-world-aids-day-on-dec/article_61aa3106-a039-11e6-b05d-f753541ff9b1.html

Lauren Sausser

The Lowcountry will mark World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 with several events around the region, including a candlelight vigil and free testing opportunities. World AIDS Day was established in 1988 to raise awareness about the disease, which is caused by HIV. More than 1.2 million people in the United States, including 18,420 in South Carolina, have HIV. More than 10,000 people in this state have AIDS. According to Lowcountry AIDS Services, South Carolina ranks 13th in the country for the rate of new infections and HIV prevalence. An estimated 3,600 Lowcountry residents have tested positive for HIV. "We know that working together as a community to fight HIV and AIDS, we can have a much larger impact," said Michael Luciano, treatment educator at Lowcountry AIDS Services and a past

chairman of the World AIDS Day Committee, in a prepared statement. "Many people think AIDS happens elsewhere, not here in Charleston. But our community is not immune to this disease," Luciano said. "By having conversations and educating people, we can make a difference in the alarming number of new infections locally, and can break down the stigma for those living with HIV and AIDS."

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: President-elect Trump News:

<http://bigstory.ap.org/35f53fb8a65142d2a1c368b224f50bcd>

With his return to New York, President-elect Donald Trump faces a pressing need to set more of the foundation blocks of his presidency in place by filling vacancies for secretary of state and other top posts. Distraction looms, however, much of it created by the president-elect himself, whose extraordinary claims of widespread voter fraud during a 12-hour Twitter offensive on Sunday cast a shadow over the legitimacy of an election that he actually won. "I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally," Trump tweeted in the afternoon before alleging in an evening tweet "serious voter fraud in Virginia, New Hampshire and California." Trump's transition team did not respond to questions seeking evidence of the claims.

National News:

Associated Press: Dakota Access pipeline protesters told to leave by Dec. 5

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a65ac1d3751e4f8db3811c3bc619ef07>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has set an early December deadline for American Indians and others to leave an encampment in North Dakota where they've been entrenched for months protesting the Dakota Access pipeline. Tribes including the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux are fighting the Dakota Access project because they fear it will harm drinking water and cultural sites. Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners says the 1,200-mile pipeline through the Dakotas, Iowa and Illinois will be safe. Here's a guide to the latest developments and key background about the protest...

World News:

Associated Press: Syrian troops capture northern parts of rebel-held Aleppo

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1de4f2b21c0244a99ab3ca1959b0cf0d>

Syrian government forces and their allies captured another major eastern Aleppo neighborhood and several smaller areas Monday, putting much of the northern part of Aleppo's besieged rebel-held areas under government control for the first time in four years, state media reported. Russia's Defense Ministry said the areas captured by Syrian government troops include 10 neighborhoods and over 3,000 buildings in the past few days. The ministry added in a statement that more than 100 rebels have laid down their arms and exited the Syrian city's eastern suburbs. Aleppo, Syria's largest city and former commercial center, has been contested since the summer of 2012 and a rebel defeat in the city would be a turning point in the five-year conflict. If Syrian forces capture all of east Aleppo, President Bashar Assad's government will be in control of the country's four largest cities as well as the coastal region.

Associated Press: Cuba bids farewell to Fidel Castro, ruler for half-century

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dd3eeb54fff24bd2ad700ef018b2c545>

A nine-story portrait of a young Fidel Castro has joined the towering images of fallen guerrillas overlooking Havana's Plaza of the Revolution, the massive square where Cuba on Monday begins bidding farewell to the man who ruled the island for nearly half a century. After 10 years of leadership by Castro's younger brother Raul, a relatively camera-shy and low-key successor, Cuba finds itself

riveted once again by the words and images of the leader who dominated the lives of generations. Since his death on Friday night, state-run newspapers, television and radio have been running wall-to-wall tributes to Fidel, broadcasting non-stop footage of his speeches, interviews and foreign trips, interspersed with adulatory remembrances by prominent Cubans. "There's a genuine feeling of mourning, that's not a formality, that's not showy, that's not outward-focused, but rather completely intimate," former National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon said on state television Sunday.

--

Camlin Moore

Cell: [803-206-8236](tel:803-206-8236)

Office: [803-734-8044](tel:803-734-8044)